

Over the past year, through the Wood County Bicentennial Commission, events and activities have taken place to commemorate the county's rich history and install a spirit of excitement about the years to come. People of all ages, throughout the county, have been involved in historic exhibits, contests, and special ways to share the past and prepare for the future.

With this statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, I will make this my submission to the next major event in the bicentennial celebration—the placing of a "Time Capsule" at the Wood County Courthouse. With my fellow West Virginians in Wood County, I envision the day one hundred years from the day this capsule will be stored when a future Senator of West Virginia will be presented this piece of history. I am confident that in October of 2099, Wood County will continue to be a center of economic progress, community spirit and commitment, and other features that have defined this corner of the nation for two hundred years already.

Wood County has a long history, in particular, in playing a major role in the development of the oil and gas industry in the State and the county, through its resources and industrial progress, Wood County has been the source of fuel for prosperity and growth way beyond its borders.

The county is also proud to house a significant chemical industry, manufacturing the critical components of products world-wide and involved in path-breaking research and development. For example, the largest DuPont facility in the corporate structure resides outside of Parkersburg on the land that George Washington once owned.

Wood County has tremendous treasures in the form of both its people and its material assets. I join its leadership and citizens in celebrating this bicentennial year, and playing my part in the time Capsule that will reappear another century from now. And I know that All Americans wish Wood County continued prosperity and progress.●

KEEPING KIDS ALIVE

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, last week in Michigan, a coalition of members in the House of Representatives introduced a comprehensive package of gun safety legislation. The principal sponsors of this package are State Representatives Laura Baird, Gilda Jacobs and Samuel Thomas II, three leaders in the state of Michigan on making our state safer for children.

The legislation introduced in the Michigan State House is designed to keep kids alive in Michigan and safe from gun violence. It would create gun-free zones in areas such as schools, day care centers, churches, libraries, hospitals and sports arenas; make Michigan the eighteenth state to enact a child access prevention law, requiring that trigger locks be sold with hand-

guns; close the gun show loophole by requiring that unlicensed dealers be subject to the same standards as licensed dealers; and limit individuals to one handgun purchase a month.

This legislation, if enacted, would make Michigan one of the most responsible gun safety states in the country. By taking firearms out of the hands of minors and closing loopholes that permit criminals easy access to weapons, Lansing will send a clear message to Michigan mothers and fathers that the state is acting to protect children from gun violence.

This legislation is a far cry from the legislation the Michigan Legislature moved forward with last spring. That NRA-backed legislation, designed to loosen the state's law on carrying concealed handguns sailed through the state Legislature only to be rejected by the citizens of Michigan. Michigan's citizens demanded that their lawmakers, enforce stricter, not looser laws, when it comes to gun safety and the protection of their children. The people in Michigan united to reject that bill last spring and I hope they will again unite to seek action from their lawmakers, and urge them to pass this important legislation.●

SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCACY REVIEW PANEL TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1999

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of calendar No. 273, S. 1156.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1156) to amend provisions of law enacted by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 and to ensure full analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules proposed by certain agencies, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Small Business, with amendments; as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the bill to be inserted are shown in italic.)

S. 1156

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Small Business Advocacy Review Panel Technical Amendments Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) A vibrant and growing small business sector is critical to creating jobs in a dynamic economy.

(2) Small businesses bear a disproportionate share of regulatory costs and burdens.

(3) Federal agencies must consider the impact of their regulations on small businesses early in the rulemaking process.

(4) The Small Business Advocacy Review Panel process that was established by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 has been effective in allowing small businesses to participate in rules that are being developed by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are the following:

(1) To provide a forum for the effective participation of small businesses in the Federal regulatory process.

(2) To clarify and strengthen the Small Business Advocacy Review Panel process.

(3) To expand the number of Federal agencies that are required to convene Small Business Advocacy Review Panels.

SEC. 3. ENSURING FULL ANALYSIS OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON SMALL ENTITIES OF RULES PROPOSED BY CERTAIN AGENCIES.

Section 609(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(b)(1) Before the publication of an initial regulatory flexibility analysis that a covered agency is required to conduct under this chapter, the head of the covered agency shall—

"(A) notify the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration (in this subsection referred to as the 'Chief Counsel') in writing;

"(B) provide the Chief Counsel with information on the potential impacts of the proposed rule on small entities and the type of small entities that might be affected; and

"(C) not later than 30 days after complying with subparagraphs (A) and (B)—

"(i) [with the concurrence of] *in consultation* with the Chief Counsel, identify affected small entity representatives; and

"(ii) transmit to the identified small entity representatives a detailed summary of the information referred to in subparagraph (B) or the information in full, if so requested by the small entity representative, for the purposes of obtaining advice and recommendations about the potential impacts of the draft proposed rule.

"(2)(A) Not earlier than 30 days after the covered agency transmits information pursuant to paragraph (1)(C)(ii), the head of the covered agency shall convene a review panel for the draft proposed rule. The panel shall consist solely of full-time Federal employees of the office within the covered agency that will be responsible for carrying out the proposed rule, the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget, and the Chief Counsel.

"(B) The review panel shall—

"(i) review any material the covered agency has prepared in connection with this chapter, including any draft proposed rule;

"(ii) collect advice and recommendations from the small entity representatives identified under paragraph (1)(C)(i) on issues related to paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) of section 603(b) and section 603(c); and

"(iii) allow any small entity representative identified under paragraph (1)(C)(i) to make an oral presentation to the panel, if requested.

"(C) Not later than 60 days after the date a covered agency convenes a review panel pursuant to this paragraph, the review panel shall report to the head of the covered agency on—

"(i) the comments received from the small entity representatives identified under paragraph (1)(C)(i); and

"(ii) its findings regarding issues related to paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) of section 603(b) and section 603(c).

"(3)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the head of the covered agency shall print in the Federal Register the report of